IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claim 1 and AMEND claims 2, 3, 4, 7, and 8 in accordance with the following:

1. (cancelled)

2. (currently amended) The peripheral unit management system according to claim ~~1~~9, wherein each peripheral unit comprises:

a main body having a first recording medium to record the property information, and

a board having a second recording medium to record the address information, wherein the board is inserted to and removed from the main body and performs a connecting function to the network to enable each peripheral unit to transmit the property information and the address information over the network, and when the board is replaced, the management system reads the property information and the address information and determines whether or not the main body of the peripheral unit has been replaced.

3. (currently amended) The peripheral unit management system according to claim ~~1~~9, wherein each peripheral unit comprises:

a main body, and

a board having a first recording medium to record the property information and a second recording medium to record the address information, wherein the board is inserted to and removed from the main body and performs a connecting function to the network to enable each peripheral unit to transmit the property information and the address information over the network, and when the board is replaced, the management system reads new property information set by an operational panel or the peripheral unit and reads new address information recorded in the second recording medium, and determines whether or not the main body of the peripheral unit has been replaced.

4. (currently amended) A peripheral unit management method to manage a plurality of peripheral units using a peripheral unit manager via a network, wherein the peripheral unit

manager stores property information and address information corresponding to each peripheral unit, comprising:

communicating with each of the peripheral units;

reading the property information and the address information from each of the peripheral units;

determining that one of the peripheral units has been replaced when the property information read does not coincide with the property information stored in the peripheral unit manager, and when detecting that the address information of one of the peripheral units is new;

obtaining the new address information of the one of the peripheral units when determining that the one of the peripheral units has been replaced; and

when the property information read does not coincide with the property information stored in the peripheral unit manager, storing the property information read and the new address information of the one of the peripheral units, ~~or~~and, when the property information read does coincide with the property information stored in the peripheral unit manager, storing data accumulated in the peripheral unit with the new address information of the one of the peripheral units after setting the property information to correspond to the new address information.

5. (previously presented) The peripheral unit management method according to claim 4, wherein each peripheral unit comprises a main body having a first recording medium to record the property information and a board having a second recording medium to record the address information, wherein the board is inserted to and removed from the main body, the method further comprising:

performing a connecting function to the network to enable each peripheral unit to transmit the property information and the address information over the network;

reading the property information and the address information when the board is replaced; and

determining whether or not the main body of the peripheral unit has been replaced.

6. (previously presented) The peripheral unit management method according to claim 4, wherein each peripheral unit comprises a main body, and a board having a first recording medium to record the property information and a second recording medium to record the address information, wherein the board is inserted to and removed from the main body and performs a connecting function to the network to enable each peripheral unit to transmit the property information and the address information over the network, and the method further comprising:

reading new property information and new address information of the new peripheral unit after the new property information has been set by an operational panel or the peripheral unit when the board is replaced; and

determining whether or not the main body of the peripheral unit has been replaced.

7. (currently amended) A recording medium readable by a computer and used for a peripheral unit management method to manage a plurality of peripheral units by a peripheral unit manager via a network, wherein the peripheral unit manager stores property information and address information corresponding to each peripheral unit and each of the peripheral units is connected to the network to communicate with the peripheral unit manager and other peripheral units, said medium having a program recorded thereon to make the computer execute:

communicating with each of the peripheral units;

reading the property information and the address information from each of the peripheral units;

determining that one of the peripheral units has been replaced when the property information read does not coincide with the property information stored in the peripheral unit manager, and when detecting that the address information of one of the peripheral units is new;

obtaining the new address information of the one of the peripheral units when determining that the one of the peripheral units has been replaced; and

when the property information read does not coincide with the property information stored in the peripheral unit manager, storing the property information read and the new address information of the one of the peripheral units, ~~or~~and, when the property information read does coincide with the property information stored in the peripheral unit manager, storing data accumulated in the peripheral unit with the new address information of the one of the peripheral units after setting the property information to correspond to the new address information.

8. (currently amended) The peripheral unit management system according to claim ~~1~~9, wherein the property information comprises a serial number of the corresponding peripheral unit.

9. (previously presented) A peripheral unit management system to manage a plurality of peripheral units using a peripheral unit manager via a network, wherein the peripheral unit manager stores property information and address information corresponding to each peripheral unit, comprising:

a reading unit reading the property information and the address information from each of

the peripheral units;

a determining unit determining that one of the peripheral units has been replaced when the property information read does not coincide with the property information stored in the peripheral unit manager, and when detecting that the address information of one of the peripheral units is new, and

an obtaining unit obtaining the new address information of the one of the peripheral units when the determining unit determines that the one of the peripheral units has been replaced, and, when the property information read does not coincide with the property information stored in the peripheral unit manager, storing the property information read and the new address information of the one of the peripheral units, and when the property information read does coincide with the property information stored in the peripheral unit manager, storing data being accumulated in for the peripheral unit with the new address information of the one of the peripheral units after setting the property information to correspond to the new address information.